

**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116 -
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE-TECH. CENTER 1700**

**Serial No.: 09/812,059
Atty. Docket No.: 01-035-US**

REMARKS REGARDING THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 3, 5-12 and 14-16 are pending.

Claims 1 and 17-20 were previously cancelled without prejudice for presentation in this or a later submitted application. Claims 2, 4, 13 and 21-25 are cancelled herein without prejudice for presentation in this or a later submitted application.

Claims 3, 5-7, 9-11 and 14 are currently amended as follows:

Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form to explicitly include the limitations of original Claims 1, 4 and 5. This amendment of Claim 5 is to bring it into compliance for form and is not made for reasons of patentability.

Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form to explicitly include the limitations of original Claims 1, 4, 5 and 6. This amendment of Claim 6 is to bring it into compliance for form and is not made for reasons of patentability.

Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form to explicitly include the limitations of original Claims 1, 4 and 7. This amendment of Claim 7 is to bring it into compliance for form and is not made for reasons of patentability.

Claims 3 and 9-11 have been amended to correct their dependency as a result of the current amendment so that Claims 3 and 9-11 now depend from Claim 5. This amendment of Claims 3 and 9-11 is to bring these claims into compliance for form and is not made for reasons of patentability.

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Claim 14 has been amended to more clearly set out certain elements of Applicants' invention as suggested by the Examiner. This amendment of Claim 14 is to bring it into compliance for form and is not made for reasons of patentability over the prior art.

RESPONSE TO OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS:

The drawings stand rejected to under 27 C.F.R. 1.83(a) for allegedly not showing structures without a "horizontal surface" as recited in Claim 13. Accordingly, Claim 13 has been cancelled without prejudice.

RESPONSE TO CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2, 3, 9, 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being incomplete for allegedly "omitting essential elements"; *an inlet, an outlet and cartridge filter bores* were identified as the omitted elements. Claim 2 has been cancelled and Claims 3 and 9 have been amended to depend from Claim 5. Claim 14 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND 103 AND ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 2-5, 10-12 and 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as anticipated by Ogden (US 3,727,764).

Claims 2-4 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) and (b) or, alternatively, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being anticipated by or unpatentable over either the Allegheny Bradford Corporation Brochure cited by Applicants or Pall Housing Data Sheets H21 or H25.

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In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 6-8 and 13-16 were not rejected in view of prior art. These claims, as well as original Claims 2, 3 and 5, were indicated to include allowable subject matter in the Office Action mailed July 2, 2003. It is assumed that the Examiner intended, in the outstanding Office action, to indicate that Claims 6-8 and 13-16 include allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, original Claims 5, 6 and 7 have been rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully submit amended Claims 5, 6 and 7, as well as dependent Claims 3, and 8-12, should be allowable since original Claims 5, 6 and 7 have been indicated to be allowable. Likewise, Claim 14 has been amended as suggested by the examiner. Claim 14, as well as dependent Claims 15 and 16, should be allowable as well.

Thus, the rejections of claims in view of prior art are moot in light of the above amendments and remarks. Early notice of allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The amendments to the claims presented hereinabove are submitted in a sincere attempt to place the instant application in condition for allowance. Applicants believe that the proposed amendments raise no new issues nor any new matter which would require further search and/or consideration by the Examiner. The proposed amendments materially reduce and/or simplify the issues for appeal, and as such, they are submitted to place the application in better form for appeal should such become necessary.

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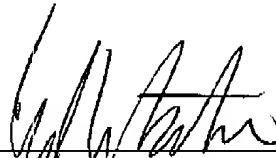
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All of the Examiner's concerns have been addressed by the above amendments and clarifying remarks. Because the above independent claims are clearly not anticipated or obvious in light of the cited references, all outstanding claims are in condition for allowance, and prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 25, 2004

By


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